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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of:

ROBERT W. LEITCH

Serial No. TO BE ASSIGNED

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Examiner: TO BE ASSIGNED

Attorney Docket No. 04-053

HOLDER FOR SURGICAL  
INSTRUMENTS

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219  
2 December 2004

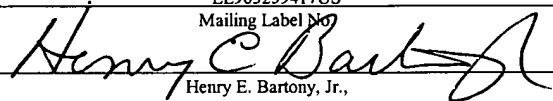
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2 DECEMBER 2004

Dated

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

The above-identified patent application is an United States National Phase entry of PCT International Patent Application No. PCT/AU03/00705. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the amendments set forth herein. The amendments find full support in the claims, specification and/or drawings as filed.

Amendments to the Specification are set forth on page 2, of this Preliminary Amendment.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the claims listing beginning upon page 3 of this Preliminary Amendment.

Remarks are set forth on page 5 of this Preliminary Amendment.